

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /050 W
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O R 040945Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1611

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 7419

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR TW US

SUBJECT: INITIAL ROC REACTION TO US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

1. ALTHOUGH THE GROC HAS HISTORICALLY APPEARED TO FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH A REPUBLICAN THAN A DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION, INITIAL REACTIONS HERE INDICATE THAT TAIWAN IS TAKING THE US PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS IN STRIDE. OF UTMOST CONCERN TO THE GROC AND THE LOCAL POPULACE IS WHAT POSITION THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL ADOPT ON THE CHINA QUESTION, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO TAIWAN. WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE A SMALL MEASURE OF UNEASINESS IN THIS REGARD, MOST PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN HAVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT A MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH ON THIS QUESTION THAN THAT WHICH THEY PERCEIVE IS BEING FOLLOWED BY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.

2. THIS HOPE IS APPARENTLY BASED PARTLY ON SOME WISHFUL THINKING AND PARTLY ON PRE-ELECTION STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER ON CHINA POLICY. ALSO, BECAUSE THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE IS SEEN HERE PRIMARILY AS A CREATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, THE GROC SEEMS TO FEEL THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT BE SO FIRMLY COMMITTED TO IT.

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3. NO ONE WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN EXPECTS THE POLICY OF NORMALIZATION WITH THE PRC TO BE ABANDONED UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, BUT SOME HAVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PROCESS WILL BE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY SLOWED WHILE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION REASSESSES THE POLICY.

4. PRESIDENT YEN AND PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO HAVE ALREADY SENT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER EMPHASIZING THE TRITIONAL RELATIONSHIP OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE ROC (SEPTTEL). THE GROC WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING REPLIES TO THESE LETTES, IN THE HOPE THAT THE REPLIES WILL CONTAIN SOME SIGNALS ON THE INTENTIONS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION REGARDING CHINA POLICY.
POPPL

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